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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 DHA-02 AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W
---------- 039989
P R 011608Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9870
INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GR
SUBJECT: TRIALS CONTINUE

REF: ATHENS 5714

1. THE TWO TRIALS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN ATHENS- APRIL 1967 COUP LEADERS AND FEBRUARY 1975 CONSPIRATORS - CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE NEWS AS THE MOST PROMINENT STORY.

2. THE TRIAL OF THOSE CHARGED WITH HIGH TEASON IN CONNECTION WITH THE APRIL 1967 COUP RESUMED ON JULY 30 AFTER A ONE-DAY RECESS WHICH WAS CALLED WHEN LAWYERS FOR 16 OF THE 20 DEFENDANTS "WALKED OUT" (REFTEL. THE COURT HAS NOW APPOINTED THREE DEFENSE COUNSELS TO REPLACE THOSE WHO WITHDREW.

3. FOR THE PAST TOW DAYS, A SUCCESSION OF PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS HAS APPEARED AS PROSECUTION WITNESSES AND TESTIFIED REGARDING THE EVENTS OF APRIL 20-21, 1967. THESE WITNESSES HAVE INCLUDED THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE COUP, PANAYOTIS KANELLOPOULOS: CURRENT MINISTER OF COORDINATION PAPALIGOURAS, WHO
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WAS THEN MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE; AND CURRENT

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MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER GEORGE RALLIS, WHO
WAS MINISTER OF PUBLIC ORDER IN APRIL 1967.
THESE WITNESSES DESCRIBED THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES
IN CONNECTION WITH THE COUP. NO NEW REVELATIONS
EMERGED FROM THEIR TESTIMONY.

4. AS TO THE COURT MARTIAL OF THE 21 ACCUSED OF
INVOLVEMENT IN THE FEBRUARY 1975 CONSIPRACY, PROSE-
CUTION WITNESSES HAVE NOW ALL BEEN HEARD AND DEFENSE
WITNESSES ARE CURRENTLY ON THE STAND. FOR THE
MOST PART, DEFENSE WITNESSES ARE CLAIMING THAT THE
REPORTED CONTACTS AND MEETINGS BETWEEN THE DEFENDANTS
MERELY CONSTITUTED NORMAL SOCIAL CONTACTS AND WERE NOT
CONSPIRATORIAL IN NATURE. IT IS ESTIMAED THAT THIS
TRIAL IS LIKELY TO CONCLUDE NEXT
WEEK. NOTE: SOME NEWSPAPERS ON AUGUST 1 REPORTED
THAT TO DATE APPROXIMATELY 75 ANONYMOUS
LETTERS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
COURT MARTIAL, THREATENING HIM WITH HARM IF THE
COURT CONVICTS THE DEFENDANTS.
KUBISCH

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